

The teaching of human rights in legal faculties in Poland and in particular – the University of Warsaw

Adam PLOSZKA,
Uniwersity of Warsaw

General overview

- Till 2011 there were Ministry of Science and Higher Education's specific regulation which established standards of education for each field of study.
- In this regulation there were list of courses obligatory for each field of study.
- For law – there were no obligatory human rights courses at all.
- Nowadays each University has an autonomy in creating programm for each field of study.

General overview

- After 2011 the situation did not dramatically changed – courses on human rights are usually facultative.
- There aren't master courses in human rights law – possible explanation – requirement of finishing full circle law studies (5 years) for bar entrance exam.

General overview – good practices

- Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń offers law students for one semester an obligatory course on international protection on human rights. This course is being conducted on the first year of bachelor studies.
- Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań in cooperation with Poznań Human Rights Centre since 1992 organizes the Summer Course on International Protection of Human Rights

General overview – good practices

➤ Law clinics

Most of the Polish universities offer law clinics which are dealing with human rights and ECHR in particular.

➤ Also NGOs offer law clinics – e.g. Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights has created law clinics focused on:

- Taxation and human rights
- Question of being innocent
- Property law
- Migration law

University of Warsaw

- University of Warsaw (specificly – Faculty of Law and Administration) offers nowadays about 7-8 independent courses on human rights law (and in particular ECHR). Both in polish and in english.
- Students can take the course on each year of studies.
- The courses are not obligatory.

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Examples of courses:

- „European Convention on Human Rights and the legal system”
- „Human Rights and the European Law”
- „Public administration and the rights and freedoms of the individual”
- „National and international institutions for protection of human rights (judicial bodies and ombudsmans)”

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- The courses usually last one semester (approximately 30 hours).
- Most of them are lectures and seminars
- The group of students taking part in such courses is approximately 30 people.

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- There is a strong concentration on ECHR system. It can be viewed from the practical side— that it is the most recognized human rights institution in Poland.
- The courses usually offer a practical exercise— how to prepare an application to ECHR.

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➤ In the courses of other disciplines, ECHR case law is usually included, specifically in:

-Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure (especially on art. 5 and 6 of ECHR)

-Constitutional Law (in the interpretation of rights and liberties included in Constitution)

-Public International Law (only in general way)

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➤ There is a law clinic conducted by Faculty of Law and Administration with two human rights sections:

1) Migration law

2) International Human Rights Institutions (helping people in sending applications to ECHR)

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➤ Warsaw University organized in 2012 in cooperation with European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) one edition of summer school dedicated to human rights entitled:

- „Summer School Normative Order of the Human Rights”

Consequences in lack of HR education

The ECHR and Poland on 1 January 2011

Total number of judgments: 874

Violation judgments: 761

No violation judgments: 61

Other judgments: 52

Inadmissibility decisions: 37 593

Pending applications: 6 452

Thank you for your attention

Adam Ploszka (L.LM.)

a.ploszka@wpia.uw.edu.pl